

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method comprising:
2 receiving, at a BIOS, a message from an authorized party;
3 authenticating the message; and
4 controlling a state of a feature of a system resource,
5 using the BIOS, according to the message.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising verifying an
2 identifier in the message against a unique system identifier of
3 the system.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising writing the
2 message into a secure non-volatile location.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the secure non-volatile
2 location comprises a remote storage.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising splicing the
2 content of the message into an execution path of the BIOS.

1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising loading and
2 executing content of the message using the BIOS at run-time.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising updating a
2 feature set of the BIOS according to the message.

1 6. A system comprising:
2 a system resource having controllable features;
3 a non-volatile memory that stores a BIOS, the BIOS being
4 adapted to receive a secure message from an authorized party for
5 controlling at least one of the features.

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1 10. The system of claim 6 wherein the BIOS also includes
2 verification circuitry for verifying an identifier in the
3 message against a unique system identifier.

1 11. The system of claim 6 further comprising a secure non-
2 volatile location for storing the at least one of the optional
3 features to be enabled, the location being readable and writable
4 by the BIOS.

1 12. The system of claim 11 wherein the location comprises
2 a remote storage.

1 13. The system of claim 6 wherein the BIOS also includes a
2 feature set that is updated according to content of the secure
3 non-volatile storage.

1 14. The system of claim 6 wherein the BIOS also includes a
2 feature set that is updated according to content of the secure
3 non-volatile storage.

1 15. The system of claim 6 wherein the BIOS loads and
2 executes the content of the message at run-time.

1 16. A computer program product residing on a computer
2 readable medium comprising instructions for causing a computer
3 to:

4 receive, at a BIOS, a message from an authorized party;
5 authenticate the message; and
6 control a state of a feature of a system resource, using
7 the BIOS, according to the message.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 16 further
2 comprising instructions for causing a computer to verify an
3 identifier in the message against a unique system identifier of
4 the system.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 16 further
2 comprising instructions for causing a computer to write the
3 message into a secure non-volatile location.

1 19. The computer program product of claim 18 wherein the
2 secure non-volatile location comprises a remote storage.

1 20. The computer program product of claim 16 further
2 comprising instructions for causing a computer to splice the
3 content of the message into an execution path of the BIOS.

1 21. The computer program product of claim 16 further
2 comprising instructions for causing a computer to load and
3 execute the content of the message at the BIOS at run-time.

1 22. The computer program product of claim 16 further
2 comprising instructions for causing a computer to update a
3 feature set of the BIOS according to the message.